

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 14-35 and 60-68 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 6, 12, 36, 46, 69, 74, 78, 80 and 88 are amended. Claims 2-7, 9-13, 36-59, 69-94 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

Examiner Discussion

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's time spent in discussing the status of this application and proposed claim amendments directed to advancing prosecution.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

In the present Office Action, the Office provides a "Response to Arguments" section in which the Office addresses several of Applicant's previously-made arguments. Applicant disagrees with the Office's statements in this section. Nonetheless, as indicated above and below, Applicant has amended its claims in an attempt to advance prosecution. Applicant expressly reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 36-40, 43, 46-48, 50-54, 59, 80, 81, 84-89 and 92-94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,572,648 to Bibayan.

1 Claims 2, 5-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being
2 obvious over Bibayan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,563,514 to Samar (hereinafter
3 "Samar").

4 Claims 3, 4 and 13, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being
5 obvious over Bibayan in view of Samar and U.S. Patent No. 5,742,504 to Meyer et
6 al. (hereinafter "Meyer").

7 Claims 12, 41, 42, 45, 49, 56, 57, 82, 83, 90 and 91 stand rejected under 35
8 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bibayan in view Meyer.

9 Claims 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over
10 Bibayan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,840 to Baer et al. (hereinafter "Baer").

11 Claim 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over
12 Bibayan and U.S. Patent No. 5,436,637 to Gayraud et al. (hereinafter "Gayraud").

13 Claim 58 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over
14 Bibayan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,602,996 to Powers III et al. (hereinafter
15 "Powers").

16 Claims 69-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious
17 over Baer in view of Meyer.

18 The Claims

19 **Claim 6** has been amended and, as amended recites a method of exposing
20 commands in a software application program comprising [added language appears
21 in bold italics]:

- 22
- 23 • determining a user's context within an application program by
24 ascertaining a position of a user's cursor within a document provided
25 by the application program; and

- automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the user based on the user's context, *wherein said automatically displaying is accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with the document and which are used to ascertain when to display said at least one command.*

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that the combination of Bibayan and Samar disclose the subject matter of this claim.

Applicant continues to maintain that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the heading "Expression Evaluation".

None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9-11 depend from claim 6 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 6, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another. In addition, given the allowability of claim 6, the rejection of claims 3 and 4 over the combination including Meyer is not seen to add anything of significance.

Claim 12 has been amended and, as amended, recites one or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which,

1 when executed by a computer, cause the computer to [added language appears in
2 bold italics]:

- 3 • determine a user's context within an application program;
- 4 • automatically display, independent of the user selecting any
5 displayed menu item, at least one command on a display for the user
6 based on the user's context, said at least one command being
7 displayed in a modeless fashion in which the user can continue to
8 work within a document provided by the application program while
9 said at least one command is displayed; and
- 10 • automatically remove said at least one command from the user's
11 display responsive to a change in the user's context,
12 • *wherein said automatically display and automatically remove are
13 accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based visibility
14 expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions
15 associated with a user's interaction with the application and are
16 used to ascertain when to display said at least one command.*

17 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office continues to argue that
18 the combination of Bibayan and Meyer disclose the subject matter of this claim.

19 Applicant continues to maintain that the Office has not established a *prima*
20 *facie* case of obviousness and reserves its right to further file continuation
21 applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited
22 art. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will
23 issue and the useful arts will be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as
24 indicated above. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification,
25 starting on page 26 under the heading "Expression Evaluation".

None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12 and is allowable as depending from an
allowable base claim. This claim is also allowable for its own recited features

1 which, in combination with those recited in claim 12, are neither disclosed nor
2 suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
3 another.

4 **Claim 36** has been amended and, as amended, recites a method of exposing
5 commands in a software application program comprising [added language appears
6 in bold italics]:

- 7 • determining a user's context within an application program by
8 evaluating at least portions of one or more expressions, each
9 expression being associated with a context block and defining a
10 condition that describes one or more aspects of a user's interaction
11 with the application program, *wherein individual expressions*
12 *comprise tree-based visibility expressions*; and
- 13 • automatically displaying, independent of a user selecting any
14 displayed menu item, at least one context block on a display for the
15 user based on the user's context, individual context blocks
16 containing multiple commands that are possible selections for a user
17 based upon their context.

18 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Bibayan
19 anticipates the subject matter of this claim.

20 Applicant continues to maintain that Bibayan does not anticipate this claim
21 and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject
22 matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the interest
23 of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will be
24 advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for this
25 amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the
heading "Expression Evaluation".

1 None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
2 subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

3 Claims 37-45 depend from claim 36 and are allowable as depending from
4 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
5 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 36, are neither disclosed
6 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
7 another. In addition, given the allowability of claim 36, the rejections of claims
8 41-42 and 45 over the combination with Meyer; and of claim 44 over the
9 combination with Baer is not seen to add anything of significance.

10 Claim 46 has been amended and, as amended, recites a method of exposing
11 commands in a software application program comprising [added language appears
12 in bold italics]:

- 13 • determining a user's context within an application program without
14 requiring the user to make a menu selection, *wherein said*
15 *determining is accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based*
16 *visibility expressions, wherein individual tree-based visibility*
17 *expressions define conditions that describe a user's interactions*
18 *with said application program;*
- 19 • based on the user's context, displaying commands that are associated
20 with the context and which can assist the user in accomplishing a
21 task; and
- 22 • while the commands are being displayed, enabling the user to select
23 and apply various commands multiple times.

24 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that its subject
25 matter is anticipated by Bibayan.

Applicant continues to maintain that Bibayan does not anticipate this claim
and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject

1 matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the interest
2 of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will be
3 advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for this
4 amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the
5 heading "Expression Evaluation".

6 None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
7 subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

8 **Claims 47-59** depend from claim 46 and are allowable as depending from
9 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
10 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 46, are neither disclosed
11 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
12 another. In addition, given the allowability of claim 46, the rejections of claims
13 49, 56 and 57 over the combination with Meyer; of claim 55 over the combination
14 with Gayraud; and of claim 58 over the combination with Powers is not seen to
15 add anything of significance.

16 **Claim 69** has been amended and, as amended, recites a computing system
17 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 18
- 19 • a single application program configured to provide:
- 20 • a single navigable window;
- 21 • multiple different functionalities to which the single navigable
- 22 window can be navigated by a user; and
- 23 • at least one context-sensitive command area that is associated with
- 24 the single navigable window, the single application program being
- 25 configured to automatically change command sets that are presented
- to the user within the command area as the user navigates to
- different functionalities, at least some commands of the command
- sets being displayable independent of the user selecting any
- displayed menu item *and as a function of one or more tree-based*

visibility expressions that define conditions that describe a user's interactions with the single application program.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Baer discloses the subject matter of this claim, except for a context-sensitive command area or a single application program configured to automatically change command sets that are presented to the user, or that commands are displayed independent of the user selecting a displayed menu item. The Office then relies on Meyer and argues that it supplies the missing elements. Based on these two references, the Office argues that the subject matter of this claim would be obvious.

Applicant continues to maintain that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the heading "Expression Evaluation".

None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

Claims 70-73 depend from claim 69 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 69, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 74 has been amended and, as amended, recites a computing system comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- a single application program configured to:
- display a single navigable window for a user to use in navigating between multiple different functionalities that can be provided by the single application program;
- provide at least one context-sensitive command area that is associated with the single navigable window, the single application program automatically changing command sets that are presented to the user within the command area as the user navigates to different functionalities, at least some commands of the command sets being displayable independent of the user selecting any displayed menu item *and as a function of one or more tree-based visibility expressions that define conditions that describe a user's interactions with the single application program*; and
- incorporate different functionalities in an extensible manner so that the user can use the single navigable window to navigate to the different incorporated functionalities.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that its subject matter is obvious in view of Baer and Meyer.

Applicant continues to maintain that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the heading "Expression Evaluation".

None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

Claims 75-77 depend from claim 74 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited

1 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 74, are neither disclosed
2 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
3 another.

4 **Claim 78** has been amended and, as amended, recites a computing method
5 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 6
- 7 • displaying a user interface that comprises a single navigable window
8 that can be navigated between multiple different functionalities that
9 are provided by a single application program;
- 10 • receiving user input that indicates selection of a particular
11 functionality;
- 12 • responsive to receiving said user input, navigating the single
13 navigable window to the particular selected functionality and
14 displaying in said window indicia of said functionality that can
15 enable a user to accomplish a task associated with the particular
16 selected functionality;
- 17 • determining a user's context within the selected functionality *using*
18 *one or more tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual*
19 *expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction*
20 *with said selected functionality*; and
- 21 • automatically displaying at least one command for the user based on
22 the user's context independent of the user selecting any displayed
23 menu item.
- 24
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17 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that its subject
18 matter is obvious in view of Baer and Meyer.

19 Applicant continues to maintain that the Office has not established a *prima*
20 *facie* case of obviousness and reserves its right to further file continuation
21 applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited
22 art. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will
23 issue and the useful arts will be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as
24
25

1 indicated above. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification,
2 starting on page 26 under the heading "Expression Evaluation".

3 None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
4 subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

5 Claim 79 depends from claim 78 and is allowable as depending from an
6 allowable base claim. This claim is also allowable for its own recited features
7 which, in combination with those recited in claim 78, are neither disclosed nor
8 suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
9 another.

10 Claim 80 has been amended and, as amended, recites a method of exposing
11 commands in a software application program comprising [added language appears
12 in bold italics]:

- 13
- 14 • determining a user's context within an application program by
15 ascertaining a user's selection within a document provided by the
16 application program *and by using one or more tree-based visibility
17 expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions
18 associated with a user's interaction with said document;* and
 - 19 • automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the
20 user based on the user's context.
- 21

22 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Bibayan
23 anticipates the subject matter of this claim.

24 Applicant continues to maintain that this claim is not anticipated by
25 Bibayan and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue
subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the
interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will
be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for

1 this amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the
2 heading "Expression Evaluation".

3 None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
4 subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

5 **Claims 81-87** depend from claim 80 and are allowable as depending from
6 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
7 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 80, are neither disclosed
8 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
9 another. Given the allowability of claim 80, the Office's rejection of claims 82, 83
10 over the combination with Meyer is not seen to add anything of significance.

11 **Claim 88** has been amended and, as amended, recites a method of exposing
12 commands in a software application program comprising [added language appears
13 in bold italics]:

- 14 • determining a user's context within an application program *using, at*
15 *least in part, one or more tree-based visibility expressions, wherein*
16 *individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's*
17 *interaction with the application program; and*
- 18 • automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the
19 user based on the user's context, independent of a user selecting any
20 displayed menu item.

21 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Bibayan
22 anticipates the claim's subject matter

23 Applicant continues to maintain that this claim is not anticipated by
24 Bibayan and reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue
25 subject matter that it believes it is due in view of the cited art. Nonetheless, in the
interest of advancing prosecution so that a patent will issue and the useful arts will

1 be advanced, Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above. Support for
2 this amendment can be found in the specification, starting on page 26 under the
3 heading "Expression Evaluation".

4 None of the references cited by the Office disclose or suggest any such
5 subject matter. As such, this claim is allowable.

6 **Claims 89-94** depend from claim 88 and are allowable as depending from
7 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
8 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 88, are neither disclosed
9 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
10 another. In addition, given the allowability of claim 88, the Office's rejection of
11 claims 90 and 91 over the combination with Meyer is not seen to add anything of
12 significance.

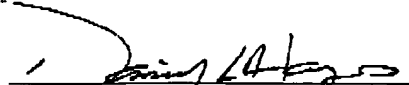
13 Conclusion

14 Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for
15 allowance and Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued
16 forthwith. If the next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a
17 Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the
18 purpose of scheduling an interview.
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Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 10/11/05

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